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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 8 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to focus your attention on yet another attempt to undermine the territorial integrity of Georgia and its sovereignty over the region of Abkhazia, Georgia, currently under Russian military occupation.

On 28 September 2009, Russia assigned its telephone codes to the occupied territory, in direct breach of the national legislation of Georgia and of international norms. The codes assigned are "7-840" for fixed lines and "7-940" for mobile users. Allow me to remind you that the dialling code "7" is the national country dialling code for Russia, which may not be used in or assigned to a part of a territory of another sovereign country, without the consent of the latter's Government.

Russia's unilateral and illegal decision to assign its dialling codes to a Georgian territory contravenes the fundamental standards and regulations of the International Telecommunication Union, in particular, its Recommendations E.212 and E.164.

This latest move by Russia represents a continuation of its policy aimed at undermining the sovereignty of Georgia over its region of Abkhazia using a variety of means, including the illegal use of its resources, air space and sea.

The Russian GSM operators, which are present on the occupied territory, have been operating in complete breach of the laws of Georgia regulating this type of activity. Specifically, they are not registered and have not been issued a licence by the national regulator, the Georgian National Communication Commission. The operators are using MCC and NMC codes (282-67 and 289-67 respectively), which are not provided by the Georgian National Communication Commission and are not registered with the International Telecommunication Union.

Georgia has already asked the International Telecommunication Union to take all appropriate measures to prevent Russia's illegal action.

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I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, under agenda item 14 "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development".

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Permanent Representative